# PASQUA GETS 2 MORE YEARS FOR LRT DEATH, PG3





# Airport worker dies in fall

# Investigation underway after man plummets six metres from bucket of de-icing truck

Police and safety officers are investigating the death of a man who fell to the ground while de-icing a plane at Calgary International Airport.

Calgary police Insp. Rob Williams said the man, in his early 50s, fell about six metres from the bucket of a de-icing truck at around 6 a.m. yesterday.

"An airport employee was de-icing a plane and a

co-worker found him on the ground. It appears that he had fallen from the deicing machine," Williams said.

"When EMS arrived he was dead on scene, and we're investigating it along with the federal investigators."

There was light snow falling at the time, but it is not clear if that was a factor in his accident.

"YYC has an amazing safety record because all our partners really adhere to those safety standards on a regular basis, so (this death is) a very unusual occurrence." Jody Moseley, spokeswoman

The lead investigator in the case is Human Re-

source Skills Development Canada.

The man who died was

an employee of Servisair Canada, which specializes in providing de-icing services at airports.

"Our deepest sympathies

are with the family and friends of the Servisair employee who lost his life this morning," said company spokeswoman Karen Gordon from Toronto.

"Servisair is working with the authorities and regulators on their investigation, as well as conducting our own investigation into this tragic event. Out of respect for the family and friends of the employ-

ee, we are not providing any further details."

The death did not slow down operations at the airport, said spokeswoman Jody Moseley. "YYC has an amazing

"YYC has an amazing safety record because all our partners really adhere to those safety standards on a regular basis, so it's a very unusual occurrence and a very tragic one."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### News on the Maye

What's this barcode for?
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Indulge your sweet tooth



Remarkable decade in film

# World pg 14

Health reform a step closer





Captain Hayley Wickenheiser, right, co-captain Jayna Hefford, centre, and co-captain Caroline Ouellette pose for a photo beside a huge jersey after the Canadian women's hockey team for the 2010 Olympics was announced in Calgary yesterday. More coverage, page 26.

# Offensive defence pivotal to women's hockey team

# VANCOUVER 2010 **Games**

ROSTER The key components of Canada's Olympic women's hockey team are fast, skilled defenders who can contribute offensively.

The 21-player roster un-

veiled yesterday in Calgary includes three young defencemen with considerable offensive upside.

The roster also includes familiar faces such as Hayley Wickenheiser of Shaunavon, Sask., and Winnipeg's Jennifer Botterill, both of whom will play in

their fourth Olympic Games. "I look at our defence

"I look at our detence and I think we've got a balance of offensive, mobile defence and the stayat-home, solid defensive defencemen when you look at (Colleen) Sostorics or (Becky) Kellar," said Wickenheiser, who was also named captain.

Calgary's Carla MacLeod, named the most valuable player at the world championships earlier this year, is one of the best offensive defenders in the game.

. THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Tasering saved life, police say

**CRIME** A woman's life was saved when police acted quickly in Tasering a man who was allegedly choking her, officials say.

Police said they were called to Beaconsfield Crescent NW at 5:30 p.m. Sunday to reports a knifewielding man had stabbed a woman multiple times. They alleged upon arrival, they found a man choking a woman in "a highly emotional, agitated and violent state."

"It is believed that the quick actions and decisions made by officers to use a (Taser) were instrumental in saving the life of the woman being choked," Det. Jeff Klinger read from a statement.

Police confirmed the incident was domestic in nature. A 24-year-old woman and 52-year-old woman were transported to hospital with undisclosed injuries, while a male was unharmed.

Jeffery Raymond Dajas is charged with two counts of attempted murder, two counts of aggravated assault, two counts of assault with a weapon, possession of a weapon or imitation for a dangerous purpose, and uttering threats. KRISTA SYLVESTER/

METRO CALGARY

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# Local



# Magic of Christmas donations down 40%

With only three days remaining, Calgary Transit is hoping Calgarians can pull through with some holiday magic for the Magic of Christmas Charity. The charitable group will deliver gifts across the city to those less fortunate, but donations are down 40 per cent from last year. Donations can be dropped off at any Fountain Tire, Auto Value and Little Caesars Pizza locations or at Santa's workshop at 401 - 33 St NE. For more information call the workshop at 403-803-1619. METRO CALGARY

# METRO INTERNATIONAL **NEWSPAPER** OF THE YEAR

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### **Calgary tweets**

 @DionneGordon Landed in Calgary. Special thanks to the many babies this flight, all of whom behaved wonderfully. Santa's got a long

'nice' list today. • @loricreech Macleod Trail is sooooo slow. I am tired of driving in congested traffic. Its been so bad in Calgary lately. #yyc

@randomNRG Beautiful snowflakes on the first day of winter, and the longest night of the year has finally arrived ... Happy solstice! #yyc





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# Woman gets 2 yrs in transit death

Victim's father says sight of son's body 'burned in my memory'

A Calgary woman wept as she was sentenced yesterday to two additional years in a federal prison for pushing a Calgary teen to a grisly death between two cars of a light-rail transit train.

Natalie Pasqua had pleaded guilty to manslaughter for shoving 17-year-old Gage Prevost off the train platform during a fight over a \$10 drug deal.

Before the sentence was handed down, she apologized to Prevost's family, her voice faint and shaking.

"I pray for you, not to forgive me but to have some kind of peace in your lives," she said. "I did not know him. And I did not mean for him to die, but there's nothing I can do."

Pasqua, who is now 28, was initially convicted of second-degree murder, but successfully argued on appeal that the judge made a mistake in the jury charge.

Prevost's father broke down as he described how he had to identify his son's mutilated body at the med-



Dale Prevost, father of slain teen Gage Prevost, discusses the sentencing of Natalie Pasqua, who pleaded guilty to a manslaughter charge after a retrial, having previously been convicted of second-degree murder in the case.

ical examiner's office.

"Seeing Gage lying on that slab ... will forever be burned in my memory, said Dale Prevost.

His voice full of anger, Prevost accused Pasqua of taking away his future

grandchildren. Friends and family sobbed as he spoke.

"If only you had just walked away. Why didn't you? Why didn't you act as

Crown lawyer Bina Border argued that Pasqua should

serve another two years on top of the equivalent of three years and four months she has already spent in custody, a recommendation also put forward by defence lawyer Christopher Nowlin.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Calgarians warned roque taxis 'very dangerous'

Getting into an unlicensed taxi is like hitchhiking; you never know what you're getting into, warns the city's taxi association.

Roger Richard, head of the city's taxi advisory committee, said the association is concerned with the growing problem of unlicensed taxis picking up passengers

"It's a serious problem because like hitchhiking, you never know who you are getting into the cab with. very dangerous," Richard said.

While licensed drivers go through a police check, training and medical exams, unlicensed taxi drivers

do not and could also have mechanical and safety problems with the vehicles.

"For the safety of Calgarians, they should not be taking unlicensed vehicles."

Richard said only 10 people have been charged in Calgary recently, with fines ranging up to \$3,000 if they are caught. He admits the

problem is much bigger in Edmonton where 200 people have been charged.

Richard said passengers should only get into taxis with the proper licence plates and identification. There are approximately 1,400 licensed taxis in Calgary.

KRISTA SYLVESTER/METRO CALGARY

metratube of the day



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17.70 Pietro KAPP Walter John KINDRET Ronald Lawrence KNIGHT. Viola (McKav) LACHAPELLE, Ed

LUTZ, Ernest James (Jim) MAGLIS, Roy Gordon Joseph MAH, Wallace Wah Sun MALLARI, Isabel Nonato (Bellie)

McNEILL Vera Elizabeth

MOODIE William NAUMESCU, Mihaela Rodica (nee

NELSON Clyde Tom RAFFAY, Margaret RAHILLY Donald Hugh RICHARDSON Dora Viola (nee Hendrickson

ROTHERY Ian M P SEIB. Eva (nee Petrowicz) THACKER, John Lawrence WATSON, James C. (Jim) WENGER. MD. LMCC. Heinz Horst ZAUGG, Carolyn Elsie

For full obituaries go to CalgaryObits.com



Colonel Irvine to receive \$20,000 tech grant

Colonel Irvine High School was announced as one of 15 Canadian schools to receive a \$20,000 technology grant from Best Buy Canada's Best In Class Fund technology program. METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Police seek man wanted for assault

**CRIME** A man with a history of violence may be in the Calgary area, according to Fort McMurray RCMP.

Daniel Lawrence Milligan, 26, is wanted on several outstanding warrants for assault and other offences, some dating as far back as 2007. He also has ties to Fort McMurray.

He has several tattoos including "outlaw" on his back and "dead rat" on his right bicep. METRO CALGARY

# 7 Avenue C-Train halted after being hit by backhoe

TRANSIT C-Train service at 7 Avenue and 3 Street SW was disrupted early yesterday after a backhoe struck the train, Calgary Transit said

The incident occurred around 8:40 a.m. yesterday and shuttle service picked up the slack shortly thereafter. Service was restored to the 7 Avenue line at approximately 10:30 a.m. Calgary police are investigating the incident.

No injuries were reported. METRO CALGARY

# Disability cutbacks 'disaster'

KRISTA SYLVESTER krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

Gary Coombe watched his deaf and developmentally delayed son's progress succeed with support but is concerned his progress will crumble when the Alberta government yanks funding.

Coombe watched his son struggle from becoming a young boy with severe communication problems to a young man who is involved with the Canadian Association of Disabled Skiers.

Coombe directly relates his 26-year-old son Cody's success to the Calgary Scope Society, supported with government funding, but the Conservative government recently made cuts to Persons with Developmental Disabilities (PDD) programs.
"The word I use for this

"The word I use for this scenario is disaster. It is disastrous for me, for Cody and for everyone who is supporting him," Coombe told reporters yesterday from the Liberal Caucus office.

Calgary-Buffalo MLA Kent Hehr has written a letter to



Kent Hehr, MLA for Calgary Buffalo, left, and Gary Coombe were at the Alberta Liberal Party Calgary headquarters to talk about disabled persons funding cuts.

Minister of Seniors and Community Supports Mary Anne Jablonski in light of the recent cuts made without any consultation in legiclature

"I want to express my profound disappointment and personal disgust at the cuts to supports for persons with disabilities," Hehr said.

Hehr is referring to the Alberta government's announcement they would ask PDD funded organizations to repay two per cent of its annual budget. For an organization like the Calgary Scope society, that is \$200,000 from a \$10 million budget.

"This is a significant sum of money to these groups and will directly affect the programs and services they provide." Alberta has largest share of emissions from group of facilities: Report

environment Of 350 reporting facilities with a total of 263 megatonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, Alberta accounted for the largest share of 2008 reported emissions, an Environment Canada report said yesterday.

Alberta's 109 reporting

Alberta's 109 reporting facilities contributed 111 megatonnes of GHG, the report stated, nearly double that of Ontario, which reported 67 megatonnes from reporting facilities.

Utilities accounted for the largest portion of GHG emissions, with 43 per cent, with manufacturing accounting for 32 per cent. Mining, quarrying and oil and gas extraction made up for 21 per cent.

The report also stated that emissions from Alberta dropped by 3.5 megatonnes in the same period, linked to reductions in oil and gas extraction activity and a decrease in utilities emissions.



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# Best Wishes

To the Calgary community for a safe and happy holiday season.

Our students continue to make us proud each and every day and we hope you will join us in celebrating their successes in 2010, our 125th Anniversary year.

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local

Hundreds of pot plants seized

A total of 683 marijuana plants with a combined street value of over \$600,000 were seized from two marijuana grow operations in Medicine Hat by the Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams on Dec. 17. METRO CALGARY

# Study eyes boom's impact on debtload

Research into middleincome families has University of Calgary sociologists looking at the debt-load added by Calgarians during the last

Anne Gauthier, Canada Research Chair in compara

tive family policy in the U of C's sociology depart-ment, and grad student Jamie Budd are leading the research into the impact of the recent global recession on families earning between \$50,000 and \$90,000.

"Most of these people are

not secured," said Gauthier. "They currently enough money to meet their basic needs, but if anything were to come up unexpectedly, they would be in serious trouble within

Researchers are particu-

### **Cities**

 Five cities are included in the study: Calgary, Coquitlam, B.C., Kelowna, B.C., London, Ont., and Montreal.

larly struck by their find-

ings in Calgary, arguably the epicentre of the previous economic boom due to its leadership role in the oilpatch.

"It looks as though the boom in Calgary possibly blinded people into taking on more debt than they

should have, which is causing more problems," says Budd. "It seems particularly acute after such an unprecedented boom — one would have thought that people would have been able to save more."

METRO CALGARY



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# Bus driver pepper sprayed in Edmonton

ANDREAS MORSE



ASSAULT Police are praising the actions of witnesses after another Edmonton bus driver was assaulted yesterday morning.

Just before 9:30 a.m. two teenage boys got on a bus and started to have a discussion with the driver about fares. The discussion quickly escalated and the driver was sprayed in the face with pepper spray.The two teens fled on foot.

Two suspects were found shortly after thanks to information police were able to gather off witnesses.

One of the things that played an integral factor in the arrest today was the quality witness information as well as the information provided by the bus driver," said Edmonton police spokesperson Karen Carl-

A 14-year-old boy was charged with assault with a weapon, possession of a weapon dangerous to the public, as well as several breaches of condition. A 15-year-old was charged with breach of conditions unrelated to the incident.

Yesterday's assault comes just three weeks after another bus driver, Tom Bregg, was attacked while driving on Dec. 3. Bregg remains in an intensive care unit at the Royal Alexandra Hospital.

### Mountie facing assault charges

**CUSTODY** An RCMP member has been charged with assault causing bodily harm and obstruction of justice as the result of a Sept. 13 incident in the Lac La Biche, Alta., RCMP detachment cell area where a man was injured while in custody, according to the Alberta Serious Incident Response Team. Executive director Clifton Purvis determined the charges against the officer were warranted.

METRO CALGARY





Soldier to be tried for murder in court martial

A Canadian officer charged in the death of a wounded Afghan insurgent will face a court martial next month. The military announced yesterday that Capt. Robert Semrau's trial will begin Jan. 25 in Gatineau, Que. Semrau is charged with second-degree murder for the 2008 shooting death. THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Canada



# No ethics violation: Watchdog

while working within an engineering firm that landed a federal stimulus contract, a Senate watchdog said yesterday. The Canadian Press reported this fall that Housakos was on the payroll of Groupe BPR Inc. last September when it was awarded \$4.5 million as part of a consortium studying the aging Champlain Bridge. THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Gangs look to cash in during Olympics

# VANCOUVER 2010 **Games**

When Vancouver police officers answered a 911 call this month and stumbled across thousands of ecstasy tablets imprinted with the Olympic rings, they may have also discovered reason to believe the region that saw bullets flying in an all-out gang war earlier this year will see relative calm come Games

Just like the province is counting on the Winter Games to inject billions of dollars into the B.C. economy, organized criminals are hoping to cash in.

I think there is so much

prov-Inte-

grated Gang Task Force estimates there are about 135 gangs in B.C. — a group of three or more people committing serious offences.

money to be made from the Olympics that's it's highly likely that there won't be much disturbance," said Robert Gordon, the director of the School of Criminology at Simon Fraser Universi-

That certainly wasn't the case last February, when the body count was climbing and petrified Vancouver region residents were de-manding police and politicians act. The latest round of bloodshed began in January, continuing for months, and at the peak of what police later admitted was an all-out gang war.

A frightening picture of murder and revenge was playing out in daily police briefings and before February was done, there had been 16 shootings and nine people were dead, including a 23-year-old mother found slumped over the wheel of a new Cadillac with her fouryear-old son still strapped into his car seat in the back.

But the beginning of the end of the violence came in April, as police rounded up members of several prominent gangs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Science Nobel Prize questioned



Former colleagues of Canadian Willard Boyle, who won the 2009 Nobel Prize in Physics along with George Smith and Charles Kao, say the Swedish Academy of Sciences has dropped the ball. Earlier this month, the academy cited Boyle for work that revolutionized digital photography. But two colleagues at Bell Labs say the citation is wrong.

DIABETES A new study says Ontario could save tens and even hundreds of millions of dollars by cutting back on the number

of unnecessary glucose tests people with Type 2 diabetes perform weekly.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Pair of cases may change libel laws

LEGAL The country's top court is set to rule today on two landmark cases that could re-write the rules on libel in Canada and grant journalists broader protections against lawsuits.

The Supreme Court of Canada has been urged by media outlets across the country to establish a new "responsible journalism" defence that would shield reporters who publish "in the public interest" and follow professional standards in their reporting, even if the truth of their stories cannot be proven.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Same-sex marriage pioneers are among Canadians who were headline one-hit-wonders in the 2000's. Scan this barcode for the full story or go to metronews.ca/canada















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#### CPP teams up to buy Scottish mall

The Canada Pension Plan Investment Board and U.K.-based Hammerson Canada
PLC have teamed up to buy a shopping mall in Scotland for about \$505 million. THE CANADIAN PRESS

# A possible silver lining for H1N1 flu

Outbreak may spur benefits for future vaccines: Experts

When you think of a flu pandemic, the images that come to mind are of people sick and people dying.

But influenza experts quietly admit there may be a silver lining — or several — to the H1N1 pandemic that erupted this year. Not just in the event itself, which was milder than feared, but also in the viral legacy it may leave.

In the wake of this pan-

In the wake of this pandemic, flu vaccine could be easier to make or could cover more targets. A tricky problem of drug resistance could disappear. And the toll influenza takes on the elderly could conceivably ease, at least

## **Optimism**

• Their optimism is in large part fuelled by a phenomenon known as viral replacement which has been seen in previous pandemics, or at least the three that have been studied using modern laboratory techniques. In simple terms, during the pandemics of the 20th century — 1918, 1957 and 1968 — the new virus snuffed out its viral predecessor.

for awhile.

Before going too far down What-If Road, however, it's important to note that predicting influenza's path is a mug's game. The longer people study it, the less likely they are to try to guess what influenza viruses may do.

es may do.
"I don't know — right now everything's a possibility as far as I'm concerned," Dr. Michael Osterholm, director of the University of Minnesota's Center for Infectious Diseases Research and Policy, cautions when asked about what the flu landscape might look like in the aftermath of this pandemic.

Still, even experts who share that understanding are thinking about some possibilities

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# **B.C. Something to keep your mind off seal hunts**



Department of Fisheries and Oceans staff from the SARA Marine Mammal Response Program successfully disentangled rope from a 500 kilogram Stellar sea lion near Race Rocks off Victoria, B.C. on Thursday and freed the animal. The rope was entangled around the sea lion's flipper and was tethered to a large rock, severely restricting the animal's movements.

# Natives protest Olympic torch

VANCOUVER 2010 Aboriginal protesters vowing to stop the Olympic torch from entering their southern Ontario reserve gathered at the Six Nations boundary line vesterday

ary line yesterday.
Some 20 vehicles were parked on the side of the road leading into the reserve and protesters are flying both Mohawk Warrior and Iroquois Confederacy flags. The protesters said the Olympic flame has no place on native land. Six Nations leaders who support the torch run had planned to hold a relay through the reserve but switched gears yesterday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# No plans to talk over NB Power buy

**ENERGY** The Quebec government says it has no plans to renegotiate a deal to buy New Brunswick's power utility.

Natural Resources Minister Nathalie Normandeau says renegotiating is not on Quebec's radar screen — because an agreement has already been hammered out.

She made the comments yesterday after a cabinet meeting in Quebec City.

Those remarks appear to pour cold water on the suggestion, coming out of New Brunswick, that the deal is somehow still a work in progress.

The New Brunswick government has come under intense political fire over its plan to sell the assets of NB Power for almost \$4.8 billion.

That government has defended the sale by saying the money will help the province make investments in areas like education that will lead to a more prosperous future for New Brunswick.

But critics have called it a sellout of key assets.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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# **10** canada

New court date for relative in murder case A man accused of murdering his 16-year-old female cousin in New Brunswick had his court date moved to Jan. 18. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Saad Gaya, 22, sometimes leads prayer services for his coaccused at Maplehurst, court was told yesterday.

# **Toronto 18** get wired

# Terror suspects treated to technology, court told

Two correctional staff at the detention centre that has been housing some of the Toronto 18 terror suspects say they have been treated better than most inmates.

The Maplehurst detention centre correctional officer and supervisor were testifying yesterday at the sentencing hearing for Saad Gaya.

Gaya, 22, was among 18 people arrested in June 2006 in a massive terror plot and is one of four of those people to plead guilty.

corrections staff The told court yesterday that since a segregation order

was lifted in June 2007 the 10 men jailed there have been treated better than other detention centre inmates.

They say special accommodations were made for the men's Muslim faith, that they have better TV access and have laptops in their cells due to a court order that they have 24hour access to evidence in their cases.

The officers also testified that Gaya was very respectful, well-behaved and sometimes led prayer services for his co-accused when an imam wasn't available.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# **News** in brief

MONTREAL Akwesasne

Mohawks involved in a border dispute have lost a legal battle in Federal Court. They wanted an exemption from having to

report to a temporary point of entry erected in the city of Cornwall, The Federal Court has denied the request.

# Police, IOC battle over drug turf

# VANCOUVER 2010 **Games**

International Olympic officials are trying to reach an agreement with Canadian law enforcement authorities on combating performance-enhancing drugs at the Winter Games

in Vancouver.

Arne Ljungqvist, chairperson of the International Olympic Committee's medical commission said yesterday the two sides are co-operating but have not finalized terms of an antidoping strategy for the Feb. 12-28 Games.

The situation is tricky because Canada does not have anti-doping laws, leaving it unclear whether authorities could raid athletes' accommodations in Vancouver to search for drugs the way Italian police did at the Winter Games in Turin in

"Discussions are going

on," Ljungqvist said.
"They will probably go
on until more or less Games-time."

The IOC is responsible for drug testing.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### Tickets can be resold online

GAMES Olympic organizers have launched their muchhyped ticket resale website, saying it should help solve the perennial problem of empty seats at Olympic events. Organizers say the official resale site will also guard against online fraudsters selling fake seats. There is no price cap; fans can charge as much as they want.

THE CANADIAN PRESS





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# **Gold turns** into dust

# Mint learns 'valuable lessons'

The amount of supposedly

lost gold that was not stolen.

but was miscounted, sold as

slag, or found in operations.

The great Canadian gold heist has turned out to be something much more mundane.

Millions dollars in supposedly lost gold at the Royal Canadian Mint has been accounted for — most of it miscounted, some sold

off cheaply, and a lot swept into dust pans.

Three independent security and accounting reviews conclude that most of \$15.3 million worth of the precious metal in question wasn't lost at all, and there's no evidence any of it was stolen.

The reviews found that \$8 million was simply miscounted, while more than \$3 million was sold off as slag — at a fraction of its worth. Another \$1.6 million worth was found in buildings and machinery in the mint.

Much of the rest was used up in the minting process, including as gold dust. There was nothing to indicate the Mint had been sloppy or careless with the precious metal.

"It is important to note that the Mint's precious metal refin-

ing process has the same characteristic as any other refinery process; losses are inevitable and unavoid-

able," cludes a review by IBI Group, which specializes in process engineering.
Indeed, the review says

the technical expertise at the Mint exceeds the industry standard.

There had been speculation the Mint had been the target of a heist, but last month the Mounties said there would be no criminal investigation, citing a lack of evidence.

The reviews were launched after an external audit in June ruled out slop-py bookkeeping as the rea-son why the Mint had 17,500 troy ounces of gold on its records that it couldn't find in its inventory. The Mint says it has learned some "valuable lessons."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Manitoba RCMP face new police Taser probe

WINNIPEG An outside police force is going to investi-gate allegations that five RCMP used excessive force against a Portage La Prairie, Man., man by beating and firing a stun gun at him while he was handcuffed.

Matthew Gray, 47, has been pursuing a private prosecution against the Mounties stemming from an incident in June 2003.

Marty Minuk, an independent prosecutor hired by Manitoba Justice, told provincial court yesterday he is taking over the case and calling in another police force to investigate.

"It's too bad that it has taken 6.5 years so far," Gray said outside court.

Gray, a former soldier

who suffers from post-trau-matic stress disorder, called a hospital psychiatric ward for help in June 2003. Hospital workers called the Mounties because they thought Gray was a danger to himself, according to court documents.

In RCMP court documents, the Mounties say Gray was handcuffed at his own request and became "extremely aggressive" while being taken by ambulance to another hospital.

Gray said he was no threat to anyone while handcuffed, yet was zapped with a Taser and beaten by officers. The case, which is still in preliminary stages, is to be back before a judge on Jan. 18.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# **News** in brie

# CARBON EMISSIONS HTC

Purenergy Inc. of Regina announced yesterday that it, along with Doosan Babcock Energy of the U.K., have been selected by a U.S. regional electricity company to develop a way to capture and store carbon emissions from a coalfired power plant. The initial engineering phase starts in January. THE CANADIAN PRESS













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#### Crime down across the board in U.S.

The FBI says the number of murders fell 10 per cent across the United States in the first half of 2009. Overall violent crimes fell by 4.4 per cent, and property crimes also dropped, by 6.1 per cent. Car thefts dropped significantly as well, falling nearly 19 per cent and continuing a sharp downward trend in that category. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# World



# Olmert pleads not guilty

Former Israeli prime minister Ehud Olmert, left, is pleading not guilty to charges of illegally accepting funds from an American supporter and double-billing Jewish groups for trips abroad. The accusations relate to offences allegedly committed during Olmert's time as Jerusalem mayor and cabinet minister, but emerged when he was

prime minister. He eventually resigned over the allegations. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# **Critical hurdle cleared** for U.S. health care

U.S. President Barack Oba ma scored a major victory on his top domestic issue as Senate Democrats narrowly prevailed on a procedural vote yesterday backing his plan to overhaul America's health care system.

The vote all but ensures that the Senate will approve a bill extending health care to 30 million uninsured Americans before Christmas. But the final outcome remains unpredictable because the Senate measure must be reconciled with a starkly different bill already passed by the House of Representa-

That is likely the most difficult step in the legislative

In yesterday's vote, all 58

### What's next

 Two more procedural votes await the Senate, each requiring 60 votes, the first of these set for this morning. Final passage of the bill

Democrats and the Senate's two independents held together against unanimous Republican opposition, providing the exact 60-40 margin needed to shut down Republicans' threat to stall a vote.

Obama later called the vote "a big victory for the American people," adding that it will make a "tremendous difference for families, for seniors, for businesses and for the country as a

The vote came shortly af-

requires a simple majority. and that vote could come as late as Thursday evening or tomorrow if Republicans agree.

ter 1 a.m. with the U.S. capital blanketed in snow. The unusual timing was necessary to permit a final Senate vote by Christmas Eve on Thursday, even if Republicans stretch out the debate as much as the rules allow.

Obama's oft-stated goal of a bipartisan health bill was not met, despite the presi-dent's extensive courtship moderate Olympia Snowe, the only Republican to support the bill in committee.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Israel One for a thousand



Noam Schalit, father of captured Israeli soldier Gilad Schalit, stands next to cardboard cutouts of his son in Jerusalem yesterday. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his top ministers debated whether to approve an emotionally charged deal to trade 1,000 Palestinian prisoners for an Israeli soldier held by Gaza militants for more than three years. Scan this barcode for the full article or go to metronews.ca/world





# UN head calls summit results 'significant step'

**CLIMATE CHANGE** United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon yesterday defended the results of the Copenhagen climate change talks as a significant step toward a binding agreement on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

He made the comments to reporters in response to criticism from world leaders that the process was flawed. Coming up with an accord that member states could agree on was "quite difficult," Ban said, but he said he was encouraged by the results.

"It is not perfect at this time, but it was a very im-



Ban

very significant step forward," he said.

The Copenhagen accord, put forward by a U.S.-led group of five nations,

recognizes that an increase in global temperature should be kept to two de-grees Celsius — the threshold that UN scientists say is needed to avert serious climate change.

But the accord is not legally binding and has no long-term global targets for emissions cuts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Student enters guilty plea in decapitation of peer at eatery

VIRGINIA A former Virginia Tech student accused of decapitating another student at a campus eatery pleaded guilty to murder yesterday as prosecutors described the killer as an obsessed, jilted admirer.

Haiyang Zhu had fallen in love with Xin Yang but she rejected him, saying that she had a boyfriend she planned to marry, prosecutors said in revealing a motive for the first time.

They also described the attack in detail, noting that Yang suffered numerous defensive wounds as she tried to fend off Zhu. She eventually fell and he severed her head. He was holding it when police arrived.

The killing stunned a campus that still had vivid memories of the mass slayings in April 2007, when student Seung-Hui Cho shot 32 people and then took his own life. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Visions

16 world

### U.K. politicians agree to TV debates

Britain's three major political parties have agreed to participate in an unprecedented series of television debates. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Mexico City OK's same-sex marriage

Mexico City lawmakers yesterday made the city the first in Latin America to legalize same-sex marriage, a change that will give homosexual couples more rights, including allowing them to adopt children.

The bill passed the capital's local assembly 39-20 to the cheers of supporters who yelled: "Yes, we could! Yes, we could!"

Mexico City's left-led assembly has made several decisions unpopular elsewhere in this deeply Roman Catholic country, including legalizing abortion in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.

# Legality

• Seven countries allow gay marriages: Canada, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Norway, the Netherlands and Belgium. U.S. states that permit same-sex marriage are lowa, Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut and New Hampshire.

That decision sparked a backlash, with the majority of Mexico's other 32 states enacting legislation declaring life begins at conception.

The conservative Nation

Action Party of President Felipe Calderon has vowed to challenge the gay marriage law in the courts. However, homosexuality is increasingly accepted in Mexico, with gay couples openly holding hands in parts of the capital and the annual gay pride parade drawing tens of thousands. The change would allow

The change would allow same-sex couples to adopt children, apply for bank loans together, inherit wealth and be included in the insurance policies of their spouse, rights they were denied under civil unions allowed in the city.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Iran Paying respects to Montazeri



Two pro-reform Iranian women attend the funeral ceremony of Grand Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, the spiritual father of Iran's reform movement, as they wear green headbands, the symbolic colour of Iranian opposition, in the holy city of Qom yesterday. Montazeri, who died Sunday at the age of 87, was a key figure in the 1979 Islamic Revolution who later accused his fellow clerical leaders of imposing dictatorship in the name of Islam.

# Concerns follow Chinese envoy

TAIWAN A senior Chinese envoy's visit to Taiwan for trade talks has sparked a backlash among critics who fear the Taiwanese government's China-friendly policies are opening the door to eventual unification with the mainland. Chen Yun-lin flew yester-

Chen Yun-lin flew yesterday from Beijing to the central Taiwanese city of Taichung a day after tens of thousands of pro-independence demonstrators marched through its streets to protest President Ma Ying-jeou's push to link the island's economy ever closer to China's.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

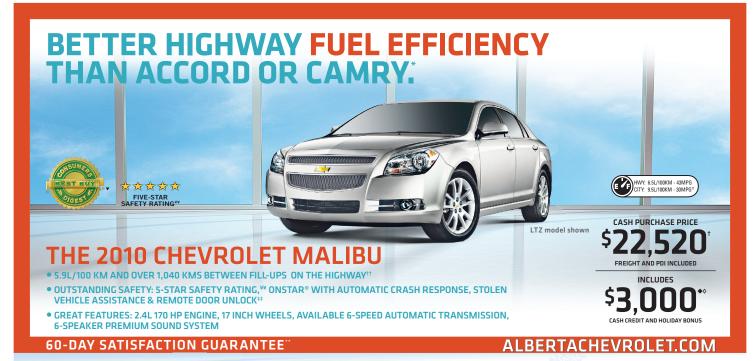
### **News** in brie

PRESIDENTIAL SHOTS U.S. President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama have received their H1N1 flu shots.
Obama said yesterday that he and his wife "just got the shots." A White House official later said Obama was vaccinat-

ed at the White House on Sunday and that Mrs. Obama was vaccinated a few days earlier. KOREAS North Korea

threatened South Korean ships with possible attack by designating a firing zone along their disputed sea border yesterday. North Korea designated what it claimed are its territorial waters in the disputed area a "peacetime naval firing zone." That apparently means that artillery shells could land in the waters at any time.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS







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### China to execute British drug smuggler

China will execute a British man convicted of drug smuggling, officials said WORLD 17 yesterday, ignoring an appeal from British Prime Minister Gordon Brown. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Nazareth excavation Walking with Jesus



Rev. Jack Karam is seen yesterday at the excavation site of the first dwelling in Nazareth that can be dated back to the time of Jesus. Remains of a wall, a hideout and a cistern were found under an old convent courtyard in the northern Israeli city.

# **UN blames Guinean** chief for slaughter

UN investigators say there is sufficient reason to believe that Guinea's wounded junta leader is directly responsible for the mass killings and rapes of protesters in September, which they consider crimes against humanity, a diplomat said yesterday.

The UN investigators also concluded that there are reasonable grounds to suspect that junta leader Capt. Moussa (Dadis) Camara, along with the army officer who shot Camara in a dispute on Dec. 3 and Guinea's anti-drug chief, bears "individual criminal responsibility" for events of Sept. 28.

A 60-page report, in French, was transmitted to the UN Security Council,

 On Sept. 28, soldiers loyal to Guinea's military ruler sealed off the exits of the national football stadium, where tens of thousands of protesters had gathered. Troops entered and fired assault rifles, spraying bullets into the crowd. A UN commission has concluded that 156 people died.

Guinea's government, the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States this week-

Its contents were first reported by Le Monde, the

French daily newspaper. The three-member UN commission, which interviewed 700 people to reach its findings, recommended that the International Criminal Court investigate those believed responsible for the killings, the Security Council diplomat said, speaking anonymously.

The report said 156 people died in the incident. commission also found that at least 109 women or girls were vic-tims of rape and sexual mutilation, while others suffered "cruel and degradtreatment," dozens of people were ar-rested or arbitrarily detained in military camps.

The junta has insisted only 57 people died and has denied rapes occurred.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Man says he stuck needles in 2-year-old to spite wife

A Brazilian man jailed for piercing his twoyear-old stepson with up to 30 needles said he intended to spite his wife by killing the child, who is recovering from surgery.

Roberto Carlos Magal-haes said Sunday that he drugged the boy with wine and had his lover hold him down while piercing him. "I did this two or three times a week during one month," the 30-year-old bricklayer told a TV program by phone from a jail.

The boy was too drunk from the wine mixture to cry while the needles were being pushed in, but he felt pain after the alcohol wore off, Magalhaes said.

"It was truly an unbear-able suffering," he said. "It was to get back at the boy's mother. I thought the needles would work their way through his body and kill the boy. It was a way to kill without anyone discovering."

But the pain led the toddler to complain to his mother, and on Dec. 10 she took him to a hospital, where X-rays revealed about 30 needles lodged throughout his body.

The boy is recovering well from a five-hour operation on Friday to remove four rusty needles near his heart and in his lungs. He will soon undergo a third SURGERY. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Pope recalls trip to Holocaust memorial

SAINTHOOD Pope Benedict XVI yesterday recalled a visit to Israel's Holocaust memorial as a disturbing encounter with hatred. The Pope spoke days after angering Jewish groups by moving the Second World War-era pope, Pius XII, a step closer to sainthood. Pius has been criticized for not speaking out during the Holocaust.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### **News** in brief

RIGHTS Twenty ethnic Uighur asylum-seekers forcibly repatriated from Cambodia to China over the weekend had warned a UN agency they feared long jail terms or even the death penalty. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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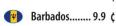


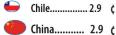












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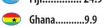
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18 world

### Mother calls cops to force boy to go to bed

Police say a frustrated woman in Boston called police to say she couldn't get her 14-year-old son to stop playing video games and go to sleep. Two officers who came to the house to respond to the call persuaded the boy to obey his mother. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Witnesses say EMTs didn't aid pregnant woman

Two emergency medical technicians accused of refusing to help a pregnant woman who collapsed in the coffee shop where they were on a break were suspended vesterday. New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg called their be haviour inexcusable.

The Fire Department of New York suspended Jason Green, a six-vear veteran. and Melissa Jackson, a four-year veteran, without pay while the Dec. 9 incident is investigated, said spokesman Steve Ritea.

Witnesses, first speaking to The New York Post, said the medics told employees at the eatery in downtown Brooklyn to call for help.

They then left when they were asked to come to the aid of Eutisha Revee Rennix, an employee who had collapsed. An ambulance was called, and Rennix, 25, was taken to Long Island College Hospital, where she died a short time later. Her baby girl was too premature to survive

A union spokesman said yesterday that EMTs generally consider their jobs to be 24-hours. "Our people tend to spring into action whether they're on duty, off duty, whatever they're doing," said Robert Ungar, the spokesman for the Uniformed EMTs and Paramedics, FDNY.

He added that the union was waiting to learn the results of the fire department's investigation.

Bloomberg yesterday repeated comments he made over the weekend criticizing the EMTs, saying that refusing to help is a violation of human decency.

"There's no excuse whatsoever," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Russian Communists gather in Moscow's Red Square vesterday to pay tribute to former Soviet leader Josef Stalin.

# Communists ask critics to cut Stalin some slack

BIRTHDAY The Russian Communist Party asked the nation vesterday for a daylong moratorium on criticizing Soviet dictator Josef Stalin as the party celebrates his 130th birthday.

Despite overseeing political purges and widespread famine that killed millions of Soviet citizens. Stalin is still embraced by many Russians nostalgic for Soviet times.

His popularity has even risen in recent years with a Kremlin-backed campaign to burnish his image as the man who led the nation to victory in World War II.

We would very much like for any discussion of the mistakes of the Stalin epoch to be silenced today, so that people could reflect on Stalin's personality as a creator, a thinker and a pa-triot," deputy parliament speaker Ivan Melnikov said on the Communists' web-THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### **News** in brief

**MURDER** An Iraqi immigrant has been indicted in Arizona on murder and attempted murder charges in a hit-and-run that killed his 20-year-old daughter and injured her boyfriend's mother. He was reportedly upset with his daughter for becoming too Westernized. Authorities say the man ran down the two women in a parking lot on Oct. 20.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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# Comment & Views

### Comment

# A leader on the high road



t long last the United States will get a semblance a decent health-care system. Barring some unfore-seen reversal, U.S. President health-care Barack Obama's reform package will receive final approval next month.
It's far from ideal. There

is no public option for example. But it's a major step forward after decades of repeated failed attempts.

This, along with the steadying of the American economy after its near collapse, will mark the most significant achievement of the first year in office for Obama. Many anticipated more from him. Following the years of regressiveness under former U.S. president George W. Bush, his expectations were enormous. But he has shown himself to be more of a middle-of-theroad compromiser than a reformer.

This was particularly evident in his decision to escalate the

war Afghanistan. In the election camhe paign had spoken moving America away from the post 9-11 fear mentality. The idea was that the most powerful mili-

tary tion in

world would no longer be held hostage to little bands of terrorists hiding away in mountains. Yet though no one has laid a glove on the United States in eight years, the fear of what extremists might do was at the heart of

the Afghan escalation. Terrorism will be around forever. If they're not in Afghanistan or Pakistan you'll find them in North Africa or somewhere else. Until the American attitude changes, there will be no end to wars. Politicians will always be able to concoct a terrorist-attack scenario, as they do now. Obama was under heavy pressure from the legions on

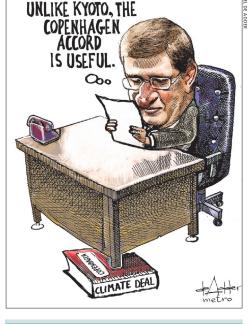
> the American right, now led by hillbil

Sarah Palin, who makes even Bush sound erudite. Had he not opted for more war, they would have pilloried him.

While the results of his first year have been mixed, it is still enormously comforting to have Barack Obama in place as the world's most powerful man. Watching him, you can see a calm and balanced and enlightened mind at work, a president with a global perspective who views the world without prejudice.

What a beautiful contrast this represents as compared to the narrow-minded confrontationalism of his predecessors. Unlike so many other leaders whose smaller minds are steeped in combat-politics, Barack Obama is one who is on the high road and who will stay

Lawrence Martin is a journalist and author of 10 books who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.



# **Worth mentioning**

# Dutch authorities seek to unravel mystery of young sailor's voyage

Her dream of becoming the youngest person to sail solo around the world shattered and under scrutiny over her quest, Dutch teenager Laura Dekker ran away from home — to the Caribbean 5,000 miles away.

Two days after she was reported missing, police managed to track the 14-year-old girl down on the island of St. Maarten.

Police and child care authorities were working Monday to uncover how exactly Laura got there and why she fled, as a family spokeswoman speculated the pressure of a court battle Laura Dekker over the attempt had gotten to her

It remained unclear if she had any plans to use the island, half of which is part of the Netherlands Antilles, as a start point for a sailing vovage.

She made international headlines in August when a court temporarily blocked her bid to set sail alone around the world in her eight-metre yacht Guppy.

If Laura were to get permission to set off on the voyage and successfully complete it, she would break a record set this year by 17-year-old Mike Perham Britain, who sailed 45,000 kilometres around the world in nine months.

A 16-year-old Australian girl, Jessica Watson, is currently trying to beat Perham's record.

Utrecht District Court ruled in October Laura was

too inexperienced for the marathon voyage. Judges sent her home to live with her divorced father and appointed a temporary guardian to ensure she did not set off on the voyage.

They urged her to make better preparations and said they would re-

consider her case in July. In recent weeks she had been feeling drained by the

pressure, said family spokes-woman Mariska Woertman.

Laura was expected to arrive back in the Netherlands on a flight early today police spokesman Bernhard Jens said. Police will then ask her how she managed to slip out of the country last week and whether anybody helped her.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## **Views**

# Not out of the jobless woods yet



So much for the jobless recovery. After scores of worrisome stories grousing that part-time jobs far too often replace full-time positions, and that an economic turnaround would fail to dent unemployment, Statistics Canada had some good news. It reported that 79,000 jobs were added in the month of November, almost half of which were full-time positions. Even the ravaged Ontario economy managed to add 27,000 the province's best monthly gain since September of 2008. Canada is hardly out of the woods - we're

still 321,000 jobs shy of employment levels before the onset of recession — but the job picture is brightening the way it always does when the cycle turns up. Employers actually hire more people.

Then again, look at what they're being

hired to do. The long-term We're still 321, 000 trend in this jobs shy of respect or employment levels healthy. not, depend- before the onset of ing on your recession.

point of view. More than 92 per cent of the jobs added in November were in the service sector. Roughly 78 per cent of the 16.9 million people now employed in Canada per-form services rather than producing goods, up from 75 per cent five years ago. The major service categories in descending order of importance: Wholesale

and retail trade; health care and social assistance; educational services; professional, scientific and technical services; and financial services. In the past year, the service sector has added 38,000 jobs. And over the past five years, the total

number service sector iobs has grown nine nearly

per cent. The goods producing sector is a differ-

ent story. If the Pythons were mocking Canada to-day, they'd be singing about lingerie salesmen instead of lumberjacks. In all, there are nearly eight per cent fewer goods producing jobs than there were five years ago. More than 295,000 goods producing jobs were lost in the year ended in November, with more than half of the

cuts coming in manufacturing. Major job losses have also been felt in construction and natural resources, in the latter instance most recently in Timmins, Ont.

There are several reasons

for our inexorable drift to a service economy, including globalization (the Chinese and others just make things more cheaply than we can), shifting commodity prices, and the general economic cycle. And at least we can console ourselves with the fact that it will be a privatesector-dominated service economy. The private sector, including company employees and the self-employed, accounts for about 80 per cent of total employment in Canada, only marginally less than it did five vears ago.

Charles Davies is a veteran business writer who has worked for Canadian and international news organizations.

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\*According to an independent consumer survey conducted in November 2009.



22

### **GM picks Microsoft CFO to run finances**

General Motors Co. has hired an outsider to run its troubled finance operations, bringing in the chief financial officer of Microsoft Corp. Chris Liddell will join GM next year, GM CEO Ed Whitacre Jr. said in a statement yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Business

US 94.22¢

US \$5.66 US 11.3¢ US \$72.47 US **89**¢

TSX 11,554.72 91.32

FDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA@METRONEWS CA

# **Caution on housing urged**

Hints by Finance Minister Jim Flaherty that Ottawa may tighten mortgage eligibility rules to avert a possible housing bubble sent ripples through the industry yesterday, with analysts urging a cautious approach to avoid damaging the economy.

ing the economy.

"The main risk here is overshooting, over-responding and basically shutting down or slowing down significantly the housing market," CIBC senior economist Ben-

jamin Tal said in an interview.
"That is a risk they have

"That is a risk they have to take into account, because the housing market is a major, major contributor to overall economic growth and we are still in a very fragile state of the recovery."

Tal was reacting to a taped interview with CTV to be broadcast next weekend in which Flaherty said the government is worried Canadians may be taking on too much debt because of historically low interest rates and could get into trouble when rates inevitably rise to historical levels.

m.metrenews.ca



Banks are being criticized for not lending, even after some have received hefty bailouts. However, some say trading, not lending, is the better economic fix for now. Scan this barcode for the full story or go to metronews.ca/business.

# Shock jock Stern threatens



In this Dec. 18 file photo, radio host Howard Stern, left, and his wife, Beth Ostrosky, talk while attending an NBA basketball game between the New York Knicks and Los Angeles Clippers in New York. Stern is threatening to leave Sirius XM Radio Inc. now that the shock jock and the satellite radio provider are getting set to enter contract talks in 2010.

# Retail sales up in October

**REBOUND** Retail sales have returned to the levels last seen a year ago, when the recession began to bite, Statistics Canada reported yesterday.

Sales rose 0.8 per cent in October from the previous month to \$35.3 billion, the eighth gain in 10 months.

The auto sector, especially new cars, led the rebound.

Excluding this sector, sales actually edged down 0.2 per cent in October.

While automotive sales overall grew by three per cent from September, new car sales rose for a sixth consecutive month, gaining 3.6 per cent

ing 3.6 per cent.
October was the first
month this year where the
value of new car sales was
higher than in 2008.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# **Business** in brief

WTO The World Trade Organization's top arbitrators upheld a ruling that China is illegally restricting imports of U.S. music, films and books, and Washington pushed forward with a new case accusing China of manipulating the prices for key ingredients in steel and

aluminum production.
Yesterday's verdict by the
WTO's appellate body knocked
down China's objections to
an August decision that
came down decisively
against Beijing's policy of
forcing American media
producers to route their busi-

ness through state-owned companies.

ELECTRONICS Panasonic Corp. said yesterday that it had taken majority control of Sanyo Electric Co., officially forming one of the world's largest electronics makers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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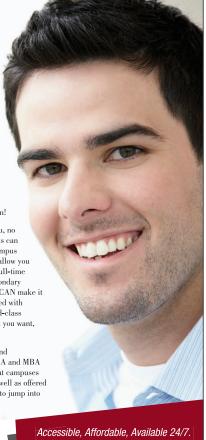
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24 business

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# **Your Money**

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA



# **Keep holiday receipts**



During the last days of Christmas shopping panic, your new best friend is a file marked Holiday Receipts.



er took into account the blizzard that hits at this time of year. Wallets, purses and pockets overflow with receipts. Many frazzled shoppers cram them into drawers or inadver-tently toss them in the recycling bin.

But come Dec. 26 when they realize how many re-turns need to be made, they'll rue not spending a bit of time keeping their holiday receipts in order.

My system is ridiculously easy. I have one file

marked Christmas gift receipts and another marked Christmas Purchases Miscellaneous. After I return from a shopping trip, whether for gifts, food or decorations, I pull out every receipt and put it into one of the two files.

For gifts, write the name of the person and the items on the receipts. Tiffany's diamond ring, Dad's pajamas, Aunt Flo's candle, etc. This is particularly important if you tend to buy a lot of presents in a single category. Books are always on my list and I'm at the bookstores many times prior to Christmas. Even though the name of the book is on the receipt if you buy 10 to 15 books, my average every year, it's easy to forget who got each one.

There's another purpose in this two-file approach to holiday receipts. I'm always curious — aren't you?

about how much I spend every year. Ninety per cent of the folks I work with on budgeting haven't a clue what they spend over the holidays.

How can you possibly



create a budget or cut back in a given area or at a cer-tain time of the year if you don't know how much you have been spending?

In the early part of January, before the holiday bills hit your mailbox, take an hour and add up your gift and non-gift purchases. You may pat yourself on the back for thrift but if you broke the bank you'll have a better idea about how and where to trim next year.

Alison Griffiths is a financial journalist, author and host of Maxed Out on the W Network. Write to her at alison@alisongriffiths.ca.

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Northgate Centre 780 478-9815 Offer ends December 31, 2009. Ava Nova Scotia: \$0.43, P.E.L. \$0.50, not

# Limit your holiday spending to cash



credit card to get me through this holiday season. Will the new credit card legislation reduce my interest rate or my ability to apply for more cards?

Sondeep

May, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty proposed sweeping changes for credit card issuers. However, there are no provisions to force issuers to reduce the interest rate charged, but payment allocation on balances can be in your favour. You can apply to as many issuers as you deem appropriate, but that is not recommended. as it can work against your rating. Individuals should have no more than one or two cards. Just keep in mind that the more cards

you have, the more you

Using credit to finance your holiday season is not a good idea. Many Canadians fall into debt in December and carry balances on their credit cards that haunt them past Canada Day celebrations. For the holiday season, limit your spending to the cash in the

Some of the changes Flaherty will introduce:

 Minimum 21-day interest-free period on all new purchases

 Statements must give clear indication of how long it will take to pay off balances, if monthly minimum payments made

 Issuers cannot increase credit limits without expressed consent by cardĥolder

 Payments must be allocated in manner that is advantageous to cardholder • Limit debt collection

practices
The vicious cycle of borrowing to get out of debt, never works.

Henry Choo Chong, CGA, can be reached at choochonghcga@yahoo.ca.

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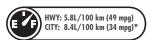


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**HOLIDAY BONUS** 



26

### **Holmgren joins Browns** Mike Holmgren has decided to see if he can fix the Cleveland Browns. The Super Bowl-winning coach accepted a job to become the club's president yesterday, joining a franchise needing a major makeover after a decade of losing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Sports



# Messi honoured as world's best

Lionel Messi won the FIFA World Player of the Year award yesterday for leading Barcelona to an unprecedented treble of Spanish and European titles. The 22-year-old Argentine beat 2008 winner Cristiano Ronaldo, 2007 winner Kaka, and his Barcelona teammates Xavi Hernandez and Andres Iniesta in voting among national team captains and coaches.

THE ASSOCIATED P THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

# Senator engaged to country star

Senators centre Mike Fisher has agreed to a new longterm deal, but it has nothing to do with hockey.

Fisher has confirmed reports that he and country music superstar Carrie Underwood are engaged.

"Yeah, it's true," he told reporters after the team's practice yesterday morning. 'We're both obviously excited and very happy."

No date for the wedding has been set. The hockey heartthrob, who's one of the team's most popular players, began dating the former American Idol winner over a year ago after being introduced through a

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Montreal 4 Atlanta 3 (OT Boston 2 Ottawa 0 Buffalo 3 Toronto 2 (OT) St. Louis 7 Edmonton 2 Colorado 4 Minnesota 3



Carrie Underwood

mutual friend.

Florida 4 Philadelphia 1 New Jersey 4 Pittsburgh 0 N.Y. Rangers 3 Carolina 1 Phoenix 5 Columbus 2 San Jose 4 Dallas 2 Tampa Bay 4 N.Y. Islanders 2

NEW YEAR'S

Live Entertainment Jawbone Hill

Rumours of the engagement began swirling on Twitter pages and websites Sunday when a family friend of Underwood, a 26year-old Nashville resident, tweeted a congratulations to the couple.

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"It's great. It's a long time coming," said Chris Neil, Fisher's closest friend on the team. "I think there's going to be a lot of broken hearts in Ottawa with all those girls who are in love with Mikey ... But he's met a great girl." THE CANADIAN PRESS



Gillian Ferrari was among the final two players released from Canada's roster.

### SCOREBOARD 'It's not enough just to YESTERDAY'S RESULTS YESTERDAY'S RESULTS bring a solid defence'

# Veteran Ferrari loses spot as team boosts offence

Specializing in defence wasn't enough to get veteran Gillian Ferrari back on the Canadian Olympic women's hockey team.

The 29-year-old from Thornhill, Ont., who has played in four world championships and won an Olympic gold medal in 2006 for Canada, was among the final two players released from Canada's roster that was announced yesterday.

Forward Jennifer Wakefield, 20, was the other player cut. Wakefield, from Pickering, Ont., suffered a broken wrist three weeks ago and hasn't been able to play since then.

Ferrari was elbowed out by defencemen with more offensive skill than her. Meaghan Mikkelson of St.

Albert, Alta., Montreal's Catherine Ward and Tessa Bonhomme of Sudbury, Alta., are among seven newcomers making their Olympic debut Feb. 13 when Canada opens defence of its title against Slo-

The five-foot-eight, 154pound Ferrari hasn't scored a goal in an international game since her first game with the national team back in 2001, but she's been an effective protector of the defensive zone.

"The defence now are a lot more dynamic," Ferrari said yesterday. "It's not enough just to bring a defence. younger defenceman we have ... they all bring a lot of offence as well as solid defence.

"Looking at the younger players, I'm just flabbergasted at how much better women's hockey is getting. I guess that kind of made a difference."

Canadian head coach Melody Davidson, chose Ferrari for her 2006 squad, has been cultivating defenders who can score and set up goals as well as repel the opposition in Canada's end.

"Over the last four years we've been building the depth at defence," Davidson explained. "Gillian is a casualty of that depth, unfortunately.

"We wanted the six best defencemen we could get and Gilly fell in that No. 7 hole. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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### **Sports** in brief

CFL Recently fired Winnipeg Blue Bombers head coach Mike Kelly will remain in legal limbo until the New Year. Kelly was supposed to appear in a Pennsylvania court tomorrow on domestic assault charges, but his lawyer can't attend and has asked for a new date that will likely be in January.

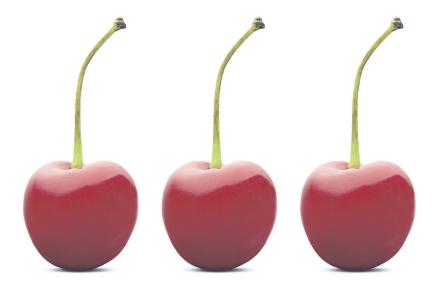
BASEBALL Free-agent pitcher Jason Marquis and the Washington Nationals have agreed to a two-year contract, pending a physical, two people familiar with the deal told The Associated Press yesterday. One person said the agreement is worth about \$15 million US.

NFL The investigation into the death of Cincinnati Bengals receiver Chris Henry carried into its sixth day yesterday without a resolution on whether his fiancée will be charged. Henry died Thursday after falling out of a truck. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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About one in 110 children in the United States have autism, according to the U.S. government's latest estimate released Friday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Autism is diagnosed by making judgments about a child's behaviour; there are no blood or biologic tests. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Health & Beauty

# Happy couples, happy holidays | A new wave of

Surviving the holidays fight-free can be a challenging but doable



he holiday season can often feel like you're one mulled wine away from losing it. This is the time of year when it's especially important to know when to pick your battles with your mate. And even more important is knowing how to best duke it out.

First of all: No actual duking. Second, according to a new study out of the University of Texas at Austin couple fights are best diffused through the careful use of "analytical" key words. Words like "think," "understand," "because" and "reason.'

"careful," I'm pretty they don't mean



Certain key words can help you and your partner resolve problems

telling your sweet, honey, darling, binkie-poo that you "think" that that reason he never "understands" anything you tell him is "because" he has no sense of "reason" and must have been dropped on his

head when he was a child.

That isn't going to diffuse anything. In fact, you're more likely to achieve the opposite and spark an atomic-level explosion.

Using insults and condescending language rarely wins an argument.

Neither does badgering your partner into talking. You know what I mean: "What's wrong?" "Noth-"What's wrong?" "C'mon, ing." what's wrong?" "Just forget it."
"C'mon, talk to me." "I
don't want to talk about it." "Fine." Silence. Of course, that's when you really kick in. "I have ways of making you talk," you glare.

Needing to always be right is another useless tactic. If you're one of these, ask yourself what's really

important: being right or being happy and getting along with each other?

Also popular and less than productive is the old sweeping blame game. If any phrases that begin with "you always," "you never," or "why are you such an utter and com-plete dumbass" are about to come out of your mouth, bite your tongue and count to ten. Then try rephrasing your comments in ways that express how you feel rather than what what's wrong with your partner. "I'm feeling frustrated...," "I'm trying to understand...," you get the

Of course, despite your best efforts, sometimes a fight escalates before you both even know what hit you and you suddenly find yourselves overwhelmed by if-you-say-another-wordmy-head-is-going-to-

explode frustration. If this happens, the best and only solution is to walk away, calmly, (that means no running after him out the door in your underwear) and regroup. You can both cool off and deal with whatever was there in the first place — if it really was anything — later. More often than not, stress, exhaustion, or too much Bailey's-laced coffee turns up

as the underlying culprit. Happy Holidays. Hope vou survive!

Josey Vogels is a sex and relationship colum-nist and author of five books on the subjects For more info, visit joseyvogels.com.

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Shoppers Drug Mart's Life Brand (\$1.49) and One ANTI-BACTERIAL Seems like Step (\$6.99.) both offer 62 the latest don't-leaveper cent ethyl alcohol sanitizers in an array of light fruity fra-grances. (One Step also home-without-it is a hand sanitizer. And ves. it's got a lot to do with fear of contracting the has an extra-strength formula with a 70 per cent alcohol con-H1N1 virus, which, according to James Scott, a microbiologist and associate professor at the Uni-

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least 60 per cent ethanol (also called SAVON SANS EAU CLEANSING TIPS

Make sure hands are free of back-up in battling WATERLESS SOAL visible dirt.

Use enough "Soap and water Fruits & Passion wet both hands thoroughly, directs the Public Health Agency Čanada. Rub into palms, backs of hands, between fingers and under finger-

> general, to reduce your risk of getting sick, keep hands away from eyes, nose and mouth," Butler Iones told Metro.

nails.

• Don't worry about becoming "sani-tizer dependant." Microbi-ologist James Scott says he's not aware of any evidence that suggests their use lowers the body's ability to combat bacteria on its own.

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# Hit the bench if head hurts

CELIA MILNE

SPORTS HEALTH Hockey players take note: It's not OK to return to the ice if you still have a headache caused by a concussion.

Awareness of the dangers of concussions, which are common in hockey and football, has increased now that the NFL has tightened the rules on returning to play.

According the new NFL rules, players mustn't play if they have any signs of

confusion or cognitive impairment, gaps in memory, abnormal neurological exam results, headache, or

Two Super Bowl quarterbacks from last year are recovering from concussions.

Dr. Michael Cusimano, a neurosurgeon at Toronto's Michael's Hospital, found in a survey that many young Canadian hockey players and their parents didn't realize it wasn't safe to return to the ice post-concussion if the player still had a mild headache.

loss of consciousness.

able, sanitizers can help. But don't have to settle for stuff that smells all-alcohol all the time.

Bath & Body Works offers 60 per cent ethanol anti-bacterial gel cleansers in scents such as

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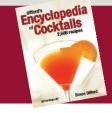
**CHEVROLET** 

**30** 

### New preservative-free food line

Paleo Brands, Inc. is introducing a new gourmet entrée and snack line that will launch Jan. 4. The line will consist of unprocessed, preservative-free, grass fed meats, wild caught fish, vegetables, fruits and nuts. METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Food



# Cocktail encyclopedia

Simon Difford is addicted to cocktails. So much so that he's made and sampled 2,600 mixed drinks during his career as a bar owner and founder of his own import company in London, England. Now for those who want to learn more ut making cocktails, Difford's Encyclopedia of Cocktails, 2600 Recipes (Firefly, hardcover, \$45) has just been published. The book features photos of finished cocktails with their recipes and origin.

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Personal Gourmet recipe of the month

# Deck the halls with dessert

### The holiday season is all about decadent desserts.

I love the combination of chocolate and cheesecake. These recipes include variations on both these delicious ingredients. The best part is that they are all conscious of calories and fat. So you can actually have your cake and eat it too!

### Marble Mocha Cheesecake

Coffee and chocolate go so well with this creamy cheese batter. You can double this recipe: bake it in a 10-inch pan and add another 10 minutes to the baking time, baking until the center is still loose.

PREP TIME: 15 MINUTES COOK TIME: 40 MINUTES

### **SERVES 12**

- 1 1/2 cups chocolate wafer crumbs
- 2 Tbsp water

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 Tbsp sugar
- 1 Tbsp vegetable oil • 1 2/3 cups smooth light ri-
- cotta
- 1/3 cup softened light cream cheese • ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/3 cup light sour cream or 2 per cent yogurt
- 1 ½ Tbsp all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract • 2 tsp instant coffee granules
- 2 tsp hot water
- 3 Tbsp semi-soft
- chocolate chips
- 1 tsp vegetable oil

# **METHOD:**

1. Spray an 8-inch springform pan with cooking oil. Preheat the oven to 350°F.

2. For the crust, combine the crumbs, sugar, water and oil. Mix thoroughly. Press into the bottom and partially up the sides of the prepared springform pan.



3. For the filling, beat the ricotta, cream cheese, sugar, egg, sour cream, flour and vanilla in a large bowl or food processor until well blended. Dissolve the coffee granules in the hot water. Add to the batter and mix until incorporated. Pour the batter over the crust and smooth

and chocolate sour cream

cheesecake squares, right.

the top.
4. Place the chocolate chips and oil in a small bowl and microwave on medium high for 30 seconds or just until soft. Drizzle the melted chocolate over the top of the batter. Draw a knife or spatula through the batter several times to create a marbled

5. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes. The center will be slightly loose when you jiggle the cake.

chocolate chunks, use a sharp knife to shave off pieces from a solid block of chocolate

PREP TIME: 10 MINUTES COOK TIME: 25 MINUTES

### Crust

- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 3 Tbsp unsweetened cocoa powder

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 egg
- ½ tsp pure vanilla
- extract

• <sup>2</sup>/<sup>3</sup> cup all-purpose flour

Filling

• <sup>2</sup>/<sup>3</sup> cup granulated sugar • 2 Tbsp

unsweet-

ened cocoa

powder1 Tbsp all-purpose flour

• 2/3 cup smooth light ricotta • 1/4 cup light cream

cheese, softened • 2 Tbsp low-fat sour cream

- 1 large egg
- ½ tsp pure vanilla

Topping
• 1 oz white or semi-sweet chocolate chunks or 2 Tbsp chocolate chips

# METHOD:

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Spray an 8-inch square baking dish with cooking oil.

2. For the crust, combine the sugar, cocoa, oil, egg, and vanilla in a bowl. Stir in the flour, mixing just until combined. Pat the mixture into the bottom of the prepared dish.

3. For the filling, combine the sugar, cocoa, ricotta,



and vanilla in a food processor. Purée until the mixture is smooth.

- 4. Spread it over the
- 5. Bake in the center of the oven for 20 to 25 minutes. The center will still be slightly loose in the middle
- when the pan is jiggled.
  6. Sprinkle with the chocolate, cool to room temperature on a rack and refrigerate until chilled.

Note: Both recipes can be made ahead of time and refrigerated for up to three days or kept in the freezer for up to two weeks.

# **Nutritional Info**

Cheesecake

Calories: 210	
Protein: 8 g	
Fat: 7 q	
Saturated fat: 4 g	
Carbohydrates: 29 g	
Squares	
Calories: 138	
Protein: 3.2 g	
Fat: 4.2 g	
Saturated fat: 1.5 g	
Carbohydrates: 21 g	

# Liquid**Assets** Rockwell metronews.ca/liquidassets

# **Dinner pairing**

hen comes the holidavs we keep things pretty traditional at my house. Our stockings are hung by the chimney with care and it just wouldn't be Christmas without at least one family feed of roast turkey with all the trimmings.

While I'm sure some of

you would like a liquid recommendation for roast beef (try a full-bodied cabernet sauvignon), ham (pick a New World pinot noir), (a medium-bodied Aussie shiraz) or even lobster (nothing beats a ripe New Zealand sauvignon blanc); here are some thoughts on matching wine with the big bird and its varied side dishes

Even with all the sweet. herbaceous sour and flavours that might wind up on your plate; a classic roast turkey dinner is surprising forgiving when it comes to a wine partner.

In reds think California Zinfandel, Italian Chianti or a Frenchmen from Beaujolais or the Southern Rhône Valley.

For a bottle of white, choose mid-priced chardonnay from Australia, Chile or France's Burgundy region or

a German with a touch of sweetness like Moselland's 2008 Ars Vitis Riesling (\$9.95

- \$17.99) - a bright, refreshing wine that will go with just about anv-

thing you plan serving along with Tom turkev.



Peter Rockwell is the everyman's wine writer, working in the liquor industry for more than 25 years. Follow him on twitter @TheReal-WineGuy and email liquidassets@eastlink.ca

# Lawson's Christmas-inspired vodka elderberry gimlet

BOOK Nigella Lawson firmly believes it's possible to bring joy if not to the world, at least to your friends and family. That is, after all, the point of her new book, Nigella Christ-

"People are predisposed to have a great time," says the popular British chef. "You almost have to go out of your way to have a horrible time.

Spread the holiday cheer with her tasty vodka elderberry gimlet recipe:

The Nigella

### INGREDIENTS:

Cool on a

rack. Refriger-

ate for at least 2

hours before removing the

sides of the pan and serv-

Chocolate cheesecake in

any way, shape or form is

not to be refused. These

luscious squares have a

brownie-type crust that's

simply mouth-watering.

They freeze beautifully and

my children love to eat

them frozen-they say it

tastes like a creamy frozen chocolate bar! To get

**Chocolate Sour Cream** 

**Cheesecake Squares** 

• 60 ml (2 oz) vodka • 30 ml (1 oz) elderflower liqueur

In a cocktail shaker filled with ice, combine all ingredients. Cover and shake. then strain into a cocktail

glass.

Source: Recipe provided by Nigella Lawson.

Note: Elderflower liqueur is a subtly floral, drink. Elderberry most often shows up as a syrup used in cough medicine. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



The results are in. Popeater.com has names Taylor Swift and Johnny Depp as its favourite celebrities of the year after asking its readers. Jennifer Aniston and George Clooney were the runner-ups. POPEATER.COM

metro

# Entertainment

**Bond Girl** 

Susan Boyle is being tipped to at the prospect of being chosen to lend her voice to the movie, which is due in 2011. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

# Swift named top entertainer

Associated Press title caps monumental year for the 20-year-old country singer

**It's a love story, baby.**Taylor Swift sang those words about a young romance, but they apply just as well to America's feelings for the 20-year-old country singer. Swift, adding to the heap of awards already bestowed on her, has been voted The Associated Press entertainer of the year. Swift was chosen by

newspaper editors and broadcast producers across the country in a survey of AP members. She follows last year's winner, Tina Fey, and 2007's pick, Stephen Colbert.

"I am so honoured and so excited," Swift said in an interview by phone with the AP. "This was so unex-pected, and I could not be more grateful.'

Though her second album, Fearless, came out in late 2008, Swift was ubiquitous in 2009.

She found critical acclaim for her autobio-graphical and infectious songwriting, exemplified in tunes such as Love Story and White Horse. She led a sold-out tour across 52 cities in North America.

She won album of the year from the Country Music Awards and the Country Music Association Awards. She hosted Saturday Night Live and performed at the Grammys. She won five American

Music Awards, including artist of the year.

At one point, she had eight songs on the Billboard Hot 100 chart.

Swift said that several nights of her year were "golden and shiny and I'll remember forever." Hosting SNL was one of those.

"That entire week was life-changing, honestly," said Swift. "It makes you

"She defines crossover appeal and would seem to be a strong business model in a declining music business."

Ellis Widner

feel so thankful to be a part of the music industry, but more than that, to me, SNL is show business.

Another live show, the MTV Video Music Awards, was more of a mixed blessing for Swift. She was accepting the award for best female video (the first VMA to be given to a country act) when Kanye West stormed the stage and interrupted her speech. West's stunt set off a media storm that perhaps said as much about Swift's popularity (fans and musicians alike came to her defence) than it did about West's.

Among those who voted for Swift for entertainer of the year was Danielle L. Kiracofe, entertainment editor for the Stars and Stripes, the military newspaper.
"In a time of 'made' mu-

sicians, she writes her own songs and has her own sparkly style," said Kira-cofe. "She's managed to do all of this with grace, class and poise — and without uttering a swear word, dancing on a pole or wearing next to nothing. At the age of 20."

Ellis Widner, style editor for the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, applauded Swift for superseding gen-erational boundaries.

"She defines crossover appeal and would seem to be a strong business model in a declining music business," Widner said.

At year's end, Swift's life is in flux. She'll soon move out from home with her family, making this Christmas an emotional one for her. She may well have more trophies to haul in, too. In January, she'll be attending the Grammys, where she's nominated for eight awards. She's already begun to look beyond

"The second that I put out Fearless, the moment that album came out and I



Country star Taylor Swift — who at one point had eight songs on the Billboard Hot 100 and is nominated for eight Grammys — was voted entertainer of the year in a poll by The Associated Press.

was done with it, I started writing for my next album," said Swift. "I love to

plan 20 steps ahead of myself, and it's really fun competition game that I

play with myself, trying to top what I've done last. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Christina Ricci has made a new short-film for DKNY. The Monster actress features in four different scenarios in the film, designed to show off the ways which the fashion house's leather Eldridge bag can be used. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

# Movie experiences that defined the decade

From computer-animated innovation to comic-book

crusaders coming to life on the big-screen, the past decade in movies has been as remarkable as any period in cinema's century of existence.

Sure, it also gave us such goose eggs as Gigli and Battlefield Earth but for every box-office bomb there's been a fantastic work of art that has transformed its genre and explored imagination Here's a look at the best cinematic experiences of the last ten

Lord of the Rings
Of course there were actually three movies, but Peter Jackson's daunting adaptations should truly only be considered as one. Either way, this stirring trilogy earned 30 Oscar nominations and won the Best Picture in 2004.

#### The Dark Knight

The decade's only film to solidly give the reigning all-time box office champ (Titanic) a run for its money, this Batman thriller is history's top-earning comic-book movie. Plus, who could forget Heath Ledger's Oscar-winning turn as the malevolent Jok-

### No Country for Old Men

The Coen Brothers continued to shine with this amazing rendition of Cormac McCarthy's harrowing bestseller. Not only did it win the Best Picture Oscar but Javier Bardem did for the term "friend-o" what Jack Nicholson did for "Here's Johnny!" in 1980's The Shining.

### Memento

Filmmaker Chris Nolan (The Dark Knight) rose to fame with this mindbender about a man trying to discover who murdered his wife. The problem: His memory isn't too clear so the narrative is as mysterious as his concussed mind.

Even though it was obvious before this 2008 hit, Pixar fully established it-self with Wall-E

# Movie feature

as the decade's most progressive studio providing family fare that's intelligent, challenging and entertaining for both kids

There were several other films over the past decade worth mentioning as well:

Eccentric screenwriter Charlie Kaufman teamed up with director Michel Gondry for the absurdist rom-com Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind: Martin Scorsese won a long-awaited Oscar with his cop-dra-

ma The Departed and Guillermo del Toro even created one of the decade's most amazing movies with Pan's Labyrinth. And even though that fantasy flick may not have achieved the same legend at the box-office, it shows that the past decade will be perhaps best remembered for the promise of what's to come

in the next ten years.

FILM BY TERRY GILLIAM

IN THEATRES CHRISTMAS DAY

ENTER FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN! metronews.ca

A PAIR OF A RUN OF

**ENGAGEMENT PASSES TO SEE** 

THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS



Hollywood player during the '00s.

# Top 10 in '09

It's been a very good year for movies. After all, recent reports have shown that admissions are up over last year (which is necessary when blockbusters like Avatar are costing upwards of \$500 million to make). But with the past twelve months giving us everything from big-budget thrillers like Star Trek and Watchmen to edgy indie dramas like Paranormal Activity and Humpday, it's never easy to compile the best of the best. Instead, I scoured ten film critic associations' lists in order to find the best movies of 2009. As the cream rose to the top, here is what became the most popular films of

The Hurt Locker Inglourious Basterds

**3** Up

Up in the Air

Precious

6 District 9

A Serious Man (500) Days of Summer

Fantastic Mr. Fox

10 The Messenger

STEVE GOW/FOR METRO CANADA



Lord of the Rings transformed the epic adventure genre and set the tone for similar movies throughout the decade.



# Simpsons turning public off on nuclear power?

TV An American philosophy professor who has edited a series of books about how TV programs such as The Simpsons have affected popular culture says many people may be concerned about nuclear power from watching the animated cartoon show.

Dr. Bill Irwin, a philosophy professor at King's College in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., says Homer — the bum-

bling main character in The Simpsons who works at a nuclear power plant has perhaps helped to put a negative spin on nuclear power by doing such things on the show as trying to stop a meltdown by randomly pressing buttons on a console. He also points out that the owner of the nuclear power plant in The Simpsons, Burns, is portrayed as a

cold-hearted, greedy industrialist. But the show's most intelligent character, Homer's daughter, Lisa, is portrayed as a staunch environmental advocate.

"She's very eco-friendly and very much against nuclear power and the nuclear power plant run by Mr. Burns," Irwin said during a recent interview on a Saskatchewan radio talk

The editor of the book The Simpsons and Philosophy says television and movies about nuclear disasters such as Chernobyl and Three Mile Island have also added to negative publicity surrounding nuclear power.

Irwin has also edited a series of similar books, which look at the effect of such TV shows as The Sopranos. THE CANADIAN PRESS



A philosophy professor has charged that The Simpsons has shaped the way people perceive nuclear power.

A Swiss newspaper is reporting that a friend of Roman Polanski says the director is finishing the edit of his latest movie Ghost while under house arrest. He says the movie maker is working and confident about the U.S. extradition request hanging over him. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# entertainment 33

# Sex Therapy album laying it on Thicke

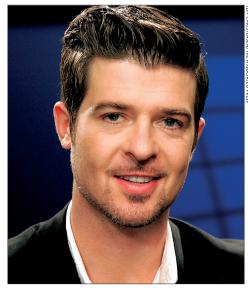
Singer talks about his family's varied response to the latest cd and his move into acting

Robin Thicke's new CD is called Sex Therapy, but the sensual singer says guys have to think beyond the bedroom if they want to keep a woman happy.

Thicke's prescription for a satisfied woman includes the occasional foot rub, a dinner date, shopping sprees and listening sessions. But sex does play a part as well — hence the title of the album.

If you were a sex therapist and you had to give advice to a couple with intimacy issues — what would you say to them?

First thing, they probably just need to slow down and look at each other again and get in a new environment. Maybe go to a different restaurant, go any-where else, have her try on some new lingerie, buy her some new lingerie, make her feel sexy. Maybe she needs to do something to make him feel sexy. But you can't ever give up on it because it's so easy to just start sitting there and the hours turn into days and



Recording artist Robin Thicke poses for a portrait in New York.

the days turn into weeks and the next thing you know you ain't doing nothing with each other.

How did your family respond to the new music?

The CD is so wild and some people, they're a little offended even though they love certain songs. They're like, 'Wow, you're getting so this and that.' I'm like, 'It's not that serious.' ... My older brother, who always liked my music very much but never gone over the top, he just said, 'I can't stop listening to it.' He said, 'This album is like great sex, I just want more and more and more of it.' And I was like, 'Wow, that's a pretty good advertisement.' (Laughs) ... But then my mom (actress Gloria Loring) hears it and (is like), 'Oh, it's a little aggressive for mommies

### I hear will you be acting soon — tell me about that.

I wouldn't want to bring down other actors by saying what I'm trying to do is acting.

(Laughs)

What they do is acting, I'm just trying. But I got a role in this animated film (Rio) with Anne Hathaway and a few other very talented people, where I play a bird, a singing bird.

I know your wife is pregnant — how does it feel to know you will be a father

It's extremely excit-Äll day long

when I get a little worried or scared or anxious or tired, I just say, Thank you God for, as of right now, a healthy child and a healthy

wife and a happy home.

In this world that should be enough to make a man happy for a day, you know what I mean?

Every time I get a little frustrated I just thank God for those things.

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critics'corner\_

Deck the Halls
Better yet, let's deck the writer
who actually accepted money
for cranking out this uninspired
sugar lump about a fatherless
8-year-old who leaps to the
obvious conclusion when he
spies a new neighbor who has
a sleigh, a red suit and various
other familiar-looking trappings.
Junior has visions of a stepfather named Santa dancing in
his head. 9 PM on CFCN



### Gibbs and the rest of the team

Gibbs and the rest of the team are forced to put in overtime while searching for a suspect on a case over Christmas. The real problem arises when they discover their prime suspect has been dead for 17 years. Talk about a "Silent Night." Michael Weatherly and Pauley Perrette also star; Peter Coyote and Kay Lenz guest star. 8 PM on CICT; 9 PM on KREM

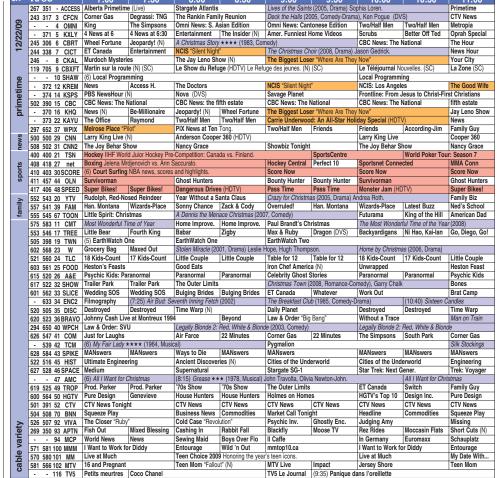
The Good Wife Will and Alicia have only 72 Will and Alicia have only 72 hours to prove who is responsible for a freight train crash that officials are trying to blame on three engineers, whose widows are being denied their pensions. At home, Alicia and Jackie clash over taking the children to visit their father in prison in "Crash."

# Murphy was sick ahead of her sudden death: Doctor

MEDICATION Brittany Murphy was ill with flu-like symptoms in the days before her death and prescription medications were taken from her home, the Los Angeles coroner's office said yesterday. The 32-year-old star of films such as Clueless and 8 Mile died Sunday morning after collapsing at her Hollywood Hills home. Paramedics tried to revive her, but she was pronounced dead at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Assistant Chief Coroner Ed Winter said his office conducted an autopsy yesterday to try to determine what killed the actress, but will defer releasing a cause of death until after toxicology tests are complete.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





**34** entertainment



### 'N Sync star Joey Fatone looks set to become a father again in 2010. The pop star-turned-TV presenter's wife Kelly Baldwin is due to give birth to the couple's second child in January, usmagazine.com reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

# **Celebrity Buzz**

### **Zeta-Jones** flashes Broadway auditorium

PEEKABOO Some Broadway theatergoers got a little more bang for their buck at a recent performance of A Little Night Music when Catherine Zeta-Jones inadvertently flashed a section of the auditorium, according to Page Six.

'I couldn't believe it. No wonder Michael Douglas looks so happy," an audience member says. "The couple sitting next to me also saw it and poked each other' METRO WORLD NEWS



# **Britney Spears posts fiction** alerts on website: Report

DO YOU REALLY CARE ANYway? Having trouble sorting fact from fiction when it comes to Britney Spears? Allow Britney herself to help you out, people.com reports.

The pop star has introduced a new "Bulls—t Alerts" page on her website, meant to deliver "the inside scoop straight from Britney and her team on what's true and what's bull'

The page launches by focusing on the bull, and lots of it. A post titled "The Year in BS" presents a list of the 75 most outlandish media stories reported about Britney over the past year, as determined by the

Spears team.
"There were more then
13,000 stories written about Britney in 2009," says the post. "We ranked the ones we believe were the most ridiculous. Either because they were factually inaccurate, because they

ney was dating Indian choreported the patently absurd, or because we be

lieve they are simply offen-Also in the top 10: sive to the sensibilireports that Spears, 28, wasn't pre-pared for her ties. world tour, that The No. 1 story on she thought her the list, father drugging her, that she was from the Mirror U.K., dating music producer Dallas Austin, claimed that and that she Britfilmed a music video top less. METRO

NEWS SERVIC-

reographer Sandip Sopar-

# **Brand, Perry** purchase Brit's old estate

HOLLYWOOD LIVING Things seem to be going swingingly for Russell Brand and Katy Perry, as the British comedian has reportedly purchased a home to share with Perry, according to Hollyscoop.

The property in question is a \$3.5 million US, seven-bedroom mansion in The Summit estate in Los Angeles, the same gated community where

**Britney Spears** once lived. METRO

## **Celebrity tweets**

Neil Patrick Harris suffers from the snow like everyone clear things up after getting hacked and Ashton Kutcher pays his respects to

Brittany Murphy.

• @ActuallyNPH Holiday Airline Madness! Flight to NY cancelled, mad dash to find seats in full planes. Feel like I'm on the Amazing Race. In the bad way.

@lindsaylohan I never twittered anything about rihanna. I actually just had to email someone to reset my password. Waste of paper to all you tabloids :)

@aplusk 2day the world lost a little piece of sunshine. My deepest condolences go out 2 Brittany's family, her husband, & her amazing mother Sharon. see vou on the other side

METRO WORLD NEWS



METRO

WORLD

NEWS

# Winehouse causes stir during **Christmastime pantomime**

NO STAGE FRIGHT Amy Winehouse shocked theatre-goers by hurling abuse at the cast and reportedly kicking the theatre's manager, femalefirst.co. re-

The troubled star is being investigated by British police after her antics at the pan-tomime — a traditional musical comedy pro-duction, typically peraround formed Christmas which saw her disrupt the performance Cinderella

heckling

ing house

its stars before

attack-

front-of-

Richard Pound. Winehouse

who is thought to have been drinking reportedly spent more than half an hour of the first act of the performance

> tives. METRO WORLD

yelling exple-

Caribbean (today) and has asked Jude if would like to join her.

# **Miller invites Law** over for the holidays

HEY JUDE, TAKE MY CHRIST-MAS AND MAKE IT BETTER Sienna Miller has invited Jude Law to spend Christmas with her, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress — who has reportedly rekindled her relationship with the Sherlock Holmes star — has now asked him to join her at a secluded beachfront villa in Barbados where she will be spending the festive break with friends.

A source told The Sun newspaper: "She is jetting to the

"He's very much considering the proposal and would love to take up the opportunity but has a number of other considernot least his

Jude, 36 — who has four children, including a twomonth-old daughter

Sophia from a brief fling with model Samantha Burke first dated Sienna in 2004, but they split two years later when he was caught having an affair with a nanny.

> METRO WORLD NEWS

# **Doherty busted upon** leaving courtroom

**DRUGS IN HIS POCKET** It was while leaving the courta rough day in court for house, according to the Pete Doherty yes-Sun.

terday. While checking in While earlier in the day, a troubled packet suspected to rocker be containing drugs escaped fell out of his pockjail time et, prompting sefor drug curity to call the charged police. "About and driving six officers came under over and waited the arrest Doherty influence of alcohol, he when his case was was immediover," a source says. ate arrested on new charges

# Jacko file slated for release

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS More than 300 pages of a 679page FBI file detailing Michael Jackson's recent death as well as his past child molestation investigations are set to be released this week, according Hollyscoop.

"This dossier is an incredibly important key under-

standing what happened behind closed doors, and may help the world better understand Michael," a

source says. The pages of report aren't being made public deal pri-marily with the singer's death, as that is still under investigation. METRO WORLD

NEWS

# Nicole Scherzinger, British racer on the rocks, new report claims

Nicole Scherzinger's romance with racing driver Lewis Hamilton is reportedly on rocks. femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Pussycat Dolls singer has been dating the British Formula One ace for nearly three years, but they have reportedly not seen each

other in three weeks and shelved plans to spend Christmas together.

A source told the Daily Mirror newspaper: "Lewis and Nicole have had a few problems for a while now. They love each other dearly but have incredibly busy schedules.

'Nicole was in London

last week and was desperate to hook up with Lewis but she was busy in the studio while he is on a European training camp and couldn't come back."

A spokesperson for Hamilton insisted the couple is "perfectly METRO fine. WORLD NEWS



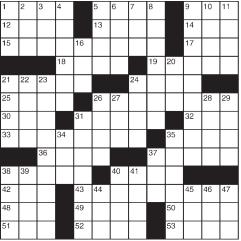
**Take Five** 











### Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone - one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

4		3			1		8
	9		1	8		5	
7			5	9			2
		8	3	5	4		
		9	6	4	3		
8			2	7			6
	1		4	6		3	
5		7			8		4

- 1 Muslim pilgrimage 5 Omit 9 Omega preced-
- 12 Jai 13 Golden Rule word 14 Rowing need
- 15 Cheating 17 "Birth — Nation" 18 Bird house? 19 Page or Pom-
- 21 Smartens (up) 24 Book after **Joel**
- 25 Pale 26 Starving 30 Modernday
- evidence 31 Legerdemain 32 Gorilla 33 Jogged untogged? 35 Manitoba
- 36 Swiss artist Pau1 37 Creator

# 38 Bigfoot's fam-40 Part mine. part yours

- 42 Eggs 43 One-piece swimwear 48 Lair
- 49 Wedding shower? 50 Liniment tar-
- 51 Deluge refuge 52 Raw minerals 53 City on the Rhone

- 1 Possessed 2 Foreman foe 3 Pickle holder 4 Unlicensed taxi
- 5 Dines 6 Entanglement 7 Judge Lance 8 Attack on one's
- opinions 9 Sly one with a cue 10 Secure
- 11 Persia, now 16 "Of course"

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

4 3

8 9

7 2

8 3 5

2 6 7

1 2 6

5 1 4

# 20 Part of UCLA 21 Bankrolls 22 "— It Roman-tic?"

- 23 Reality show for budding entrepreneurs 24 In the thick of
- 26 Charlatan 27 Census statis-
- 29 Antelope's playmate 31 Orchestra leader
- 37 "- Miniver" 38 "Star Wars"
- 41 Banjos' kin
- 46 However, in

- 28 Duel tool
- 34 Inventor Whitney 35 Informal
- sage 39 Always 40 Formerly
- 44 Melody 45 Unfriendly
- poetry 47 D.C. VIP

1 6 5 8 2 9

9 8 4 7 5 3

8 3 7 2 9

5 9 1 3 4

4 7 6 9 1

3 1 9 5 8 4

9 5 8 7 2 3 4 6 1

6 4 2

4 9 1 2 5 8 6 3 7

# **Metro Recipe of the Day**

# Venison with Chunky **Vegetable Braise**

### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tbsp (25 ml) olive oil 3 shallots, roughly chopped 1 lb (500 g) butternut
- squash, peeled and diced 2 celery sticks, sliced 1 bay leaf
- 1 1/4 cup (300 ml) beef stock
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) Worcestershire sauce 4 venison steaks 398 mL can chickpeas, drained and rinsed 1 tsp (5 ml) smoked or regular paprika

### METHOD:

1. Heat oil in a large, heavy-based pot and fry shallots, squash and celery over fairly high heat, stirring occasionally, until beginning to brown. Preheat broiler to high.

- 2. Add bay leaf, stock and 1 tbsp (15 ml) Worcestershire sauce, and bring to boil. Reduce heat, then cover and simmer until vegetables are just tender. Adjust seasoning if necessary. 3. Meanwhile, brush veni-
- son steaks with remaining Worcestershire sauce and cook 4-5 minutes on each side. Cut into thick pieces, if you like. 4. Stir chickpeas into pot
- of vegetables and bring back to boil. Spoon vegetables onto serving plates and top with venison. Sprinkle with the paprika and serve.

### rd.ca

For nutritional infor mation on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out Key Ingredients



### Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

### For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

# ARIES

# MARCH 21-APRIL 20 This is the ideal time to make an impression on people in positions of power. If you are hoping for a promotion the Sun will help you be noticed.

You will have to deal with people today who, to say the least, are emotionally difficult and there may be times when you could scream at them to stop.

# TAURUS

You can work alone if you wish but the planets indicate you need to join forces with like-minded people if you want to see your dream become a reality.

# **SCORPIO**

OCT 24-NOV 22
Words will come easy to you today and you will leave no one in any doubt what it is you mean and what it is you expect

#### **GEMINI** MAY 22-JUNE 21

On the web

 $(\Pi)$ Try not to be too concerned about what you own and earn because that could lead to conflict with someone whose needs may be at odds with your own.

#### **SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21**

Don't worry too much if your financial and business affairs are in a bit of a mess because the Sun's transit of the money area of your chart will help.

### CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

If you are serious about your aims and ambitions it would be wise to consult partners and colleagues before you do anything about them.

# CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20
If you want to start something new or if you want to change your life in some way now is the time to stop thinking about it and to start acting.

### LEO JULY 23-AUG 23

Cosmic activity in the area of your chart that governs your daily routine will pile on the pressure over the next few davs.

# **AQUARIUS**

JAN 21-FEB 18
This is generally a happy time of year for you but it could be one of the happiest ever if you face up to a fear that has been a constant in your life.

### VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 22

Because the Sun is transiting the most dynamic area of your chart you must aim higher than ever before.

### **PISCES** FFR 19-MARCH 20



# This day in history

1944: World War II: Battle of the Bulge – German troops demand the surrender of United States troops at Bastogne, Belgium, prompting the famous one word reply by General Anthony McAuliffe: "Nuts!"

1944: World War II: The Vietnam People's Army is formed to resist Japanese occupation of Indo-China, now Vietnam.

1965: In the United Kingdom, a 70mph speed limit is applied to all rural roads including motorways for the first time. Previously, there had been no speed limit.

1989: Berlin's Brandenburg Gate re-opens after nearly 30 years, effectively ending the division of East and West Germany.

# **TAKE A BREAK** FROM WORK

Visit metronews.ca to watch metrætube of the day

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Royal Solaris Cancun • 4 ★ All-Inclusive

Deluxe lagoon view rm. Jan. 31 • 1 wk.

+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): \$281

Ixtapa/ Zihuatanejo

Barceló Ixtapa Beach • 4★ All-Inclusive • Standard rm. Feb. 6-27 • 1 wk.

+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): \$272

Santa Clara

Barceló Cayo Santa Maria Beach Resort • 4★

All-Inclusive • Junior suite Jan. 6 & 13 • 1 wk.

Barceló Tucancun Beach • 4★

All-Inclusive • Standard rm. Jan. 31 • 1 wk.

Jamaica

Sunset Jamaica Grande Resort & Spa • 4 ★ All-Inclusive • Standard rm. Jan. 4, 11, 18 & 25 • 1 wk.

\$949

Meliá Las Dunas • 4 ★ All-Inclusive • Standard rm. Jan. 6 & 13 • 1 wk.

\$1029

Los Cabos

Jan. 23 & 30 • 1 wk.

Barceló Los Cabos Palace Deluxe • 5 ★ All-Inclusive • Junior suite

\$1199

Gran Bahia Principe Jamaica • 4 1/2 ★ All-Inclusive • Junior suite Jan. 18 & 25 • 1 wk.

§1099

**Punta Cana** 

Occidental Grand Punta Cana • 4★ All-Inclusive • Junior suite Jan. 5 & 12 • 1 wk.

DEAL<sub>to</sub> **EUROPE** 

Paris via Toronto or Montreal Hotel Cervantes Paris • 3 ★ Breakfast Standard double rm. Jan. 21, 22, 28 & 29 • 3 nts.

+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): \$422

DEAL on **CRUISES**  Celebrity Cruises<sup>1</sup> Celebrity Summit<sup>s™</sup> Southern Caribbean cruise Flights to San Juan via Toronto Oceanview stateroom, cat. 7 Mar. 6 & 20 • 1 wk.

\$1599

# PALACE RESORTS

Punta Cana Moon Palace Casino. Golf & Spa Resort • 5★ All-Inclusive • Caribbean suite Jan. 5 & 12 • 1 wk.

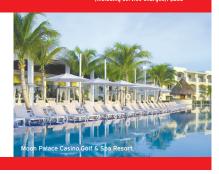
\$1699

+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): \$303

Cancun/Riviera Maya Moon Palace Golf & Spa Resort • 4 1/2 ★ All-Inclusive • Deluxe rm. Jan. 31 • 1 wk.

\$1779

+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): \$281



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